Letter

Flexible Word

President Johnson replied to a question "Why are we in Vietnam?" in his address to the AFL-CIO convention, as reported on page A15 on Dec. 10, as follows: "To defend that freedom—to permit its roots to deepen and grow without fear of *external* suppression—is our purpose in South Vietnam."

On page A19, the same day, *The Washington Post* reports "The South Vietnamese government has closed down a Catholic weekly newspaper that crusaded for a representative form of government, it was learned today."

Freedom is a fascinating word. It's so flexible.

FLORENCE ORBACH.

Rockville.